

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the forgoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow:

I. Status of Claims

1. Claims 1-5, 8, 12, 15-17, 20, 23, 26, 31, 34, 37, 40, 43, 51, 54 and 205-218 are pending in the application.
2. Applicants acknowledge the allowance of claims 206 and 207.
3. Claim 1 has been rewritten to incorporate the subject matter of claim 209. No new matter has been added by this amendment.
4. Claims 43, 208 and 218 have been cancelled without waiver or prejudice.
5. Applicants reserve their right to pursue the subject matter of any original or cancelled claims in one or more divisional or continuing applications.
6. Following the above noted amendments claims 1-5, 8, 12, 15-17, 20, 23, 26, 31, 34, 37, 40, 54 and 205 - 217 are pending in the application.

II. Oath & Declaration

7. The Examiner has objected to the oath or declaration as filed on October 24, 2007 on the basis that the oath does not incorporate the mailing address of each inventor. Applicants respectfully traverse this objection.

8. The mailing addresses of the inventors of this patent application were provided on the Application Transmittal Sheet filed on September 22, 2003. 37 C.F.R. § 1.63(c) provides that the mailing addresses of the inventors need to be provided on the oath unless the information is supplied on the Application Data Sheet in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.76.

9 Reconsideration of the oath, in view of the mailing address information of the inventors being contained on the Application Data Sheet, and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

III. Claim Objections

10. Claim 209 was objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

11. Claim 1 has been rewritten to incorporate the subject matter of former claim 209. No new matter has been added by this amendment. Reconsideration of claim 1 is requested in view of the amendment to incorporate the subject matter of claim 209.

IV. Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

12. Claims 1-5, 8, 12, 15-17, 20, 23, 26, 31, 34, 37, 40, 43, 51, 54 and 205-217 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

13. Claim 1 has been amended in view of the above noted claim objections without waiver or prejudice. Further, Applicants note that they disagree with the basis of the written description rejection and have amended the claim solely to advance this patent application to grant.

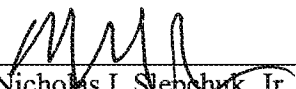
14. Applicants request reconsideration of claims 1-5, 8, 12, 15-17, 20, 23, 26, 31, 34, 40, 43, 54 and 205-217 and the withdrawal of the rejection of these claims.

V. Conclusion

15. Applicants respectfully submit that all the grounds for rejection of the pending claims have now been overcome and all the claims are in a condition for allowance.

16. In the event that the Examiner wishes to discuss any aspect of this response for purposes of advancing the prosecution, please contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,


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